

# THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

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PRICE FIVE CENTS.

## TAX APPEALS HEARD

BY THE MEMBERS OF THE STATE BOARD OF TAXATION.

**Mr. Black's Petition Sorely Tried by Petty Appeals—Declined to Set His Judgment Against That of the Local Board of Assessors—A Decision by the Board Expected Next Week.**

The State Board of Taxation held a session in the Council room here on Wednesday. Messrs. Lantz and Black were the only two members present. One Orange case, a Glen Ridge case, and about a dozen local cases were heard by the board.

The Orange case was that of Miss Beard. Miss Beard, who conducts a boarding school on Berkeley avenue, Orange, claimed that her property was exempt as a school, and was present with her counsel, former City Clerk Daniel A. Dugan of Orange. City Counsel William A. Lord, accompanied by Assessor Harrington of Orange, opposed the claim on the ground that part of the school is used as a dwelling house by Miss Beard and members of her family. Miss Beard admitted this, but said one child who is a scholar boarded with her, and it was, therefore, a part of her school. The board reserved its decision.

The Glen Ridge case was the appeal of the New York and New Jersey Telephone Company against an assessment of \$12,000 levied on the company's plant in the borough. Frank S. Benson and Mr. McMahon of Riker & Riker, represented the borough, and Mr. Cameron was present for the company. Mr. Benson contended that Mr. Johnston's assessment was a fair valuation of the company's property. The company's counsel was willing to concede an increase over the previous year's assessment, but nothing like the assessors' valuation. The point for the State Board to pass upon was the increase to be allowed in the assessment of conduits. The company allowed a valuation of ten cents per lineal foot as an assessment figure. Mr. Benson contended that the figure named was ridiculous. As the case required the introduction of testimony showing the value of the conduits, and as Mr. Cameron was not prepared to present evidence, the case was laid over for further hearing.

**Anselm County Prosecutor William A. Mott** represented the town before the State Board, and Edwin A. Rayner a large number of the appellants.

The following is a list of the local cases before the board showing the amount assessed by the Board of Assessors for the year 1903, and the reduction asked for, and also the reductions made by the Board of Assessors that of the year 1902:

|                     | Assessed | Wanted | Reduction |
|---------------------|----------|--------|-----------|
| George W. Fornoff   | \$1,250  | \$900  | \$350     |
| George Fisher       | 5,250    | 3,750  | 1,500     |
| William M. Beckaw   | 3,750    | 2,500  | 1,250     |
| Alexander Parsons   | 450      | 350    | 100       |
| "                   | 1,200    | 1,100  | 100       |
| "                   | 450      | 350    | 100       |
| Tunis Garabrant     | 100      | 50     | 50        |
| "                   | 350      | 250    | 100       |
| "                   | 2,000    | 1,400  | 600       |
| John Hyde           | 5,000    | 4,000  | 1,000     |
| "                   | 1,500    | 1,000  | 500       |
| S. J. Hines         | 2,400    | 1,800  | 600       |
| Harry White         | 2,200    | 1,600  | 600       |
| Martin Hummel       | 2,300    | 1,800  | 500       |
| "                   | 2,500    | 2,000  | 500       |
| "                   | 1,650    | 1,200  | 450       |
| "                   | 1,300    | 1,000  | 300       |
| Sylvanus Cockeclair | 2,700    | 2,000  | 700       |
| "                   | 400      | 300    | 100       |
| Anna Forster        | 1,300    | 900    | 400       |

The State Board took all the cases under consideration, and will make known their decision next week. The general opinion of the majority of spectators was that with about two exceptions the Bloomfield cases will be dismissed.

Mr. Black appeared to be particularly displeased with the trifling importance of some of the appeals, and characterized the proceedings as wasting the State Board's time. He said that he did not propose to set his judgment against that of the local Board of Assessors and the local Commissioners of Appeals in matters with which they were familiar and he was not. The State Board, he said, was not created for the purpose of upsetting the work of local Boards of Assessors. If any of the appellants, Mr. Black said, could show that they had been discriminated against, or that conditions were changed since the previous assessment was passed upon, the State Board would set in such cases, but there was no such evidence in the cases now before the board, and it was simply a rehashing of old straw. The local Board of Assessors, he said, had evidently done their work in a careful manner and with due consideration of the conditions of properties.

George Fisher's appeal was given consideration by the board, as there appeared to be considerable merit in his claim that a part of his farm was taxed at a higher valuation than land of similar character owned by others. Mr. Fisher said that he was willing to pay on as high a valuation as any body else on what he termed his good land, but he claimed a reduction on the part of his farm that was simply swampy.

An error in the amount of land for which John Hyde was assessed was pointed out by Assessor Gilbert, and Mr. Hyde will be allowed a reduction corresponding to the error.

## The Country and Its Soldiers.

The following letter is addressed to the Civics Federation's Standing Committee on Dependents:

Whenever an American stands transfixed in wonder and admiration before the famous picture in Faneuil Hall, Boston, representing Webster in the Senate vindicating our national integrity, he notices an attentive listener depicted in the foreground with his head resting on his hand. That statesman was the first Senator from the State of Maine—the Hon. Peter Sprague—who, when a member of the House of Representatives from Massachusetts, on the 25th of April, 1896, had championed the cause of the surviving soldiers of the American Revolution in a speech which deserves especial consideration at the present time, when again the advocates of a parsimonious policy toward the saviors of our Union thrust themselves into public notice. Our space only admits of the two following extracts from a speech replete with arguments equally applicable to the Union veterans:

"They dispersed and departed for their homes in every part of your wide domain, unrewarded, penniless, carrying with them nothing but the proud consciousness of the purity and dignity of their conduct and a firm reliance upon their country's honor and their country's faith. And what return has been made to them? Have they not found your high-blown honor a painted bubble and your pledged faith a broken reed? Have not those dark predictions of your ingratitude, which you then indignantly repelled as slanders foul and false, at which you were ready to exclaim: 'Is thy servant a dog, that he shall do this thing?'—have they not been too much realized? Have not the petitions of the soldiers of the Revolution been disregarded? Have they not grown old in poverty? Do they not now owe the miserable remnant of their lives to charity? Sir, if we change our conduct towards them, it must crimson with shame the fount of history."

"Let gentlemen tell us that this law (of 1815) so administered is too liberal; that it goes too far, and they would repeat it. They would take back the little which they had given. And is this possible? Look abroad upon this wide extended land; upon its wealth, its happiness, its hopes, and then turn to the aged soldier who gave you all and see him descend in poverty to the tomb."

But that was said seventy-eight years ago, some critics say. Here is an utterance, hardly a year old, with its truthfulness and crushing force. We give the following extract from a speech made in Boston, Mass., by the Adjutant General of the State of Pennsylvania, February 11, 1903:

"The soldier himself simply asks what is his due. In 1861 he marched away from home through the streets of the capital city of this nation down to the fields of conflict, and at the close of that great conflict the remnant of that mighty host marched back through the streets of that same capital city, the sidewalks and the house-tops crowded with people, and the old flag he fought to save seemed to be beckoning to him on the march. The only debt that the nation can never pay is that which it owes to its defenders. That was the statement, the promise, and we repeat it now, and all that the soldier asks is that it shall be discharged honestly and generously on the part of the nation, and that the nation shall never see the memory of her dead. The nation that does that will always have some right to rally to her standard in the hour of her trouble her sons. Death is reaping a wide swath in the ranks of the old soldiers now, and the harvest is being gathered. The eyes may not be quite so bright, the step may not be quite so steady, the arm may not be quite so strong, but there was a day when they fought the fight and when they kept the faith and did the very full their duty, and as they kept the faith then, let the people of the nation keep it now, and let it not be said in the days yet to come that there was a time when the nation stood silent in the presence of him who for the nation's peace and happiness had dared and suffered; but rather let it be said that while it gave him respect and loved him as a defender of the republic, it was also true to the spirit of our mighty host and surrounded by the monuments of mighty achievements, so let us turn our eyes from the present to the future, and let the survivors be but true to the thousands of our dead; true to the trust they have bequeathed to us in their dying; then we can dedicate stone upon stone of that glorious structure that they have builded so much better than they knew. And we can transmit to the people of the ages yet to come this mighty temple of the world and for the world which shall hold the ark of freedom. And the gates of liberty shall open, and the folds of the nation's banner shall be shaken out, proclaiming to a wondering world that this is the way to greatness and the way to glory."

The State of New Jersey occupies a unique position. Her revenues are derived mainly from her policy of fostering organized capital, and it is her boast that she has no State debt and no State tax. Her almshouse institutions are and are provided for without cost to the individual citizen. It would seem that no taxpayer would complain at his or her share of the burden of caring for the decrepit old veterans at the Soldiers' Home at Kearny, nor would it seem

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## PATRIOTIC ADDRESS.

America's Place Among the Nations—A Theme that Arouses the Enthusiasm of a Large Audience—An Instructive and Enjoyable Entertainment by Dr. MacArthur.

Rev. Robert B. MacArthur, D. D., of Calvary Baptist Church, New York city, was the lecturer at the eighth entertainment of the current season of the First Presbyterian Church Guild Monday night, and a large audience enjoyed an interesting, instructive and inspiring address. Dr. MacArthur's subject was "America's Place Among the Nations," and in appropriate harmony with the theme and spirit of the occasion was the profuse decoration of flags on and about the platform. Dr. MacArthur began his address with an allusion to the Russo-Japanese war now in progress, and likened it to the Bible story of David and Goliath. The first part of his address was devoted to America's expression. He made a comparative illustration of the growth of three great nations—Great Britain, Russia and the United States—during the nineteenth century. The history of America's expansion, he said, began with the Louisiana purchase from the French in 1804, and Dr. MacArthur gave an account of that purchase which differed in many important features from the currently accepted ideas about that historic incident, and some who have been disposed to regard it as one of the chief events of President Jefferson's administration and redounding to the glory of the Jeffersonians, were perhaps somewhat amazed and disappointed with the version of the event dramatically narrated by Dr. MacArthur.

Dr. MacArthur reviewed the several acquisitions of territory by the United States and pointed out that the anti-expansionist had been ever present in the land from the days of the Louisiana purchase to the acquisition of the Philippines. The speaker apparently took much delight in laying the anti-expansionist and the subsequent course of events proving so at variance with the pessimistic utterances and predictions of those who had opposed expansion at various periods in the country's history afforded him an opportunity to vigorously apply the lash.

Dr. MacArthur particularly praised Secretary Seward's Alaska purchase, which at the time it was made was characterized by the opposition as an investment in polar bears and ice-bergs.

He waxed eloquent in his praise of the acquisition by the United States of the Hawaiian Islands, which he termed the strategic point of the Pacific Ocean. In Dr. MacArthur's opinion the commercial and political activities of the world which in ancient times centered in the countries bordering on the Mediterranean Sea, and subsequently shifted to the shores of the Atlantic Ocean, were destined to move to the Pacific Ocean shores and the American flag in the Philippine Islands indicated that the United States was destined to be an important factor in the new theatre of events. Dr. MacArthur clearly saw the guiding of Providence in the growth in territory power and influence of the United States, and the providential trend of events would only be realized and appreciated when the great struggle comes for controlling influence in the world's affairs between the peoples and peoples represented by Russia and those represented by the Anglo-Saxon race.

Dr. MacArthur spoke of America's place among the nations as an industrial power. Time was, he said, when the European nations regarded America as a great farm, but now they were compelled to view it as a great workshop. He narrated some incidents of American industrial achievements that had surprised the world.

There was one thing yet lacking to give perfection to an eulogy of America's greatness as a world power, and that was the lack of a merchant marine. Hundreds of thousands of dollars of American money, Dr. MacArthur said, were being paid to owners of foreign ships for carrying American goods, and which money ought to go into the pockets of American owners of American ships.

In concluding his spirited and entertaining address with a glorious tribute to American diplomacy he praised Colonel John Hay in particular. Russian diplomacy had never met with a successful check, Dr. MacArthur claimed, until Russian diplomats came in contact with Colonel Hay.

## Basket-Ball.

Three basket-ball players and two ringers of the Westminster Cadet Corps were defeated by the Empire Fire on Friday night of last night by the score of 9 to 5. The line-up:

W. C. G. Moore right forward Empire Fire.  
Farrand left forward Hogan  
Adams center O. Ferguson  
Tyndall left guard Baitle  
Ackerman right guard H. Ferguson  
Referee—H. Maxwell. Umpire—H. Stone.  
Time-keeper—F. Harrison. Time of halves—15 minutes.

Mrs. Elizabeth Schaub, soprano, will take part in the Banner-Kronold Concert at Jarvis Memorial Hall, Tuesday evening, March 6th. Don't miss hearing her.—Adv.

## BOROUGH MEETING.

Held in the Council Hall Tuesday Night—Fire Matters, Sinking Fund, and Unpaid Taxes were Topics of Animated Discussion—Nominations Made and Appropriations Voted.

Fire matters, a sinking fund, and unpaid taxes were the three leading topics of discussion at the annual meeting of the citizens and taxpayers of the borough of Glen Ridge, held in the borough hall, Herman street, Tuesday night. Edwin A. Rayner presided at the meeting. The members of the fire department, led by Chief Engineer Smith, endeavored to persuade the taxpayers to increase the fire appropriation from \$2,000 recommended by the Council to \$4,000. When the latter amount was defeated, a motion to bond the borough for \$5,000 for fire purposes was submitted, and this too met with defeat.

The members of the Council declared that the \$1,000 additional this year would put the department on a good footing, and at the same time prevent the tax rate from going beyond the \$3 rate. Chief Smith said that the \$2,000 recommended by the Council, was entirely inadequate, and suggested \$3,000 for immediate equipment.

A communication from the Truck and Hoes Company, as to what was needed, was read, after which Councilman Standish, as Chairman of the Fire Committee, said that fire matters had been thoroughly gone over by the Council, and that all had agreed that the amount recommended would answer all purposes even though he would like to have made it much larger. He said that there were other departments that needed attention, and the question at issue was to conduct affairs on an economical basis.

Mayor Brewer regretted that the Council could not see its way clear to grant to the department all that was asked, but it was the policy of the present Council, he said, to reduce the debt.

"If the tax rate goes up," added the Mayor, "the Council will be held responsible, and those whose terms expire will go out at the end of the year."

The recommendation of the Council was then carried, after the motion of Mr. Smith had been voted down.

In the debate on the sinking fund question, former Councilman H. G. Cordley opposed the policy of creating a sinking fund by including in the appropriations for borough purposes an appropriation for creating a sinking fund from which floating indebtedness would be paid. He said that to make an appropriation for general borough purposes in order to reduce the floating debt or create a surplus was wrong in principle and unnecessary. He offered a resolution in accordance with this idea, and it was defeated.

The large amount of unpaid taxes appearing in the collector's report for the year afforded a topic for animated discussion. A resolution offered by Mr. Cordley was adopted, and which provides for the publication in the annual borough report the names of people in arrears for taxes. Mr. Cordley, in supporting his resolution, said that the borough of Madison did not have any back taxes in 1901, because the names of all delinquents had been formerly published.

Exception was made to Mr. Cordley's remarks by Councilman Lockwood, who said that a man's property could not be sold until all the requirements of law had been carried out, and he could not see why the adding of interest to a man's taxes yet to be collected was wrong. Mr. Lockwood said further that Mr. Cordley was endeavoring to make it appear that the collector of taxes was remiss in his duty. Mr. Cordley said he had no such intention, but on the contrary, believed he was doing all in his power to have delinquents pay up.

Mayor Brewer believed that something should be done to collect back taxes.

The following nominations were then made: Councilmen for three years, Walter T. Wallace and A. H. Tyson; Assessor for three years, Hampden L. Johnston; Collector for three years, Frank S. Benson; Commissioner of Appeals for three years, Edgar A. Moss. Councilmen Lockwood and Standish, whose terms expired, declined to run again. The following appropriations were voted:

Lighting Streets and Public Places.....\$4,000.00  
Water for Extinguishment of Fire, etc. 2,000.00  
Support of Police Department..... 2,000.00  
Maintenance and Equipment of Fire Department..... 2,000.00  
Keeping in Repair Streets and Sidewalks..... 4,000.00  
Interest on Road Improvement Bonds 3,000.00  
Interest on Park Bonds..... 1,000.00  
Interest on Outlets Sewer Bonds..... 1,400.00  
Maintenance and Operation of Sewerage System..... 500.00  
Principal of Road Bonds..... 2,000.00  
General Incidentals Expenses of the Borough, Including Maps, Surveys and Elections..... 3,000.00  
New Stone Roads, Cobble Gutters and Curbwalks..... 400.00  
Baldwin Street and Ridgewood Avenue Storm Drain..... 1,000.00  
Interest on Money Borrowed in Anticipation of Taxes..... 1,000.00  
Total.....\$31,000.00

The Banner-Kronold String Quartette at Jarvis Memorial Hall Tuesday evening, March 6th. Hear them, and you will be glad you were born.—Adv.

## The Banner-Kronold Concerts.

The first of the two subscription concerts announced by the Jarvis Memorial Library will be given in the Memorial Hall Tuesday evening next at 8.15 o'clock. The full program is as follows:

- PART I.  
1. Quartette, Op. 58, Dvorak  
Alligro ma non troppo, Lento, Molto Vivace, Vivace.  
The Banner-Kronold Quartette.  
2. Piano Solo.  
(a) Barcarolle, Liszt  
(b) Moto Perpetuo, Gottschalk  
3. Violin Solo.  
(a) Rostropovich, Chopin  
(b) Mazurka, Jarynski  
4. Quartette, Variations on "Emperor" Quartette, Banner-Kronold Quartette. Haydn  
PART II.  
5. Soprano Solo.  
(a) Maligne Moiré, Pugno  
(b) Chanson Bretonne, Delibes  
Mrs. Elizabeth Schaub, with Mr. Fizzarello at the piano.  
6. "Cello Solo."  
(a) At the River, Fischer  
(b) Vito, Popper  
7. Quartette.  
(a) Transcendental, Schuman  
(b) Menuetto, Bocherini  
Banner-Kronold Quartette.

This commendable effort of the Library managers to afford the people of this vicinity an opportunity to hear some really fine music should receive most hearty support. The reputation of the artists is high, the price of the tickets is low, and the object praiseworthy. The entertainment committee has spared neither expense nor trouble in their arrangements. A large attendance will be very gratifying and will show that the people of Bloomfield not only appreciate good music but take a substantial interest in one of the town's finest institutions—the Jarvis Memorial Library.

## Base-Ball.

The action of Lawrence Hesterer, the well-known base-ball player, who was graduated from the Watseong amateur team to the Newark professional team, in declining to sign the contract sent him by the Newark Club unless the salary was increased, has been a leading topic in local base-ball circles. With Hesterer, Moriarty, Pades, Burke and the probable addition of one or two more able artists, Newark appeared to be well fixed in the twirling department, but now it is a question whether the former two will play with Newark. Hesterer was sent a contract the other day with an offer of \$175 per month. This amount does not just suit the Watseong boy, who relies his services as being worth considerably more.

"My price is \$200 a month or I don't play," said Hesterer, after receiving his contract. "I have that offer from the New Orleans Club of the Southern League, and if the Newark Club wants my services it will have to come up to that amount. The peace agreement prevents me from playing with the New Orleans; but sooner than to pitch for \$175 I would step out of League work and again join the boys, playing semi-professional ball. I will not sign with Newark for \$175 a month. That is a sure thing."

Hesterer was one of Newark's mainstays in the box last season. It was when the locals played away from home, and particularly against those heavy hitting teams, Jersey City and Buffalo, that the little southpaw was at his best. He finished the season with a record of seventeen victories and twelve defeats, and helped to win many another game.

The Watseong Junior Base-Ball Club is to be reorganized, and will play next season.

## Empire Theatre.

Denman Thompson and George W. Ryer's pastoral comedy "Our New Minister," which comes direct from the American Theatre, New York, where for the past three months it not only broke all records for enormous business, but held the palm as being the best play seen in Manhattan this season, comes to the Empire Theatre, Newark, Monday, March 7. The scene of the play is laid in "Hardacre," N. H., where "the stones grow faster than the yaps can pick 'em up." The play is divided into three acts and shows the front of the village store and post office, the library of Thaddeus Strong, the new minister, and the kitchen of Lem Ransom, the reformed convict. Matinee Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday.

## Free Scholarship Notice.

The Drake Business College of Orange will hold a competitive examination Saturday, March 26, open to the young men of Bloomfield, for the purpose of awarding a free scholarship good for three months' tuition in any department. This contest is open to all young men residing in Bloomfield, and between the ages of 16 and 20 years.

Notice of intention to compete must be received on or before March 19th. The scholarship will be awarded to the one attaining the highest average in Arithmetic, Spelling and Grammar, and is good for three months' tuition in any department.

Inquiries in regard to the above are earnestly solicited, and any further information will be cheerfully given.—Adv.

If you are coming to the Banner-Kronold Concert Tuesday evening, please be in your seat before 8.15. Late comers will be shown to seats after the opening number.—Adv.

## THE MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

ADDRESSED TO THE CITIZENS AND TAXPAYERS OF GLEN RIDGE.

A Review of Municipal Work of the Year—Economic Measures Proposed—What Is Being Done About Parks?

A. B. Brewer, Mayor of the borough of Glen Ridge, has issued the following statement to the taxpayers and citizens of the borough. In regard to the debts of the borough the Mayor says:

"The debts are represented by four classes of bonds and three classes of notes. The bonds are: Road bonds, \$78,000; outlet sewer bonds, \$37,000; lateral sewer bonds, \$12,000; park bonds, \$35,000. The road bonds have been reduced \$7,000 during the past three years by maturity and payment from money received in part from the trolley company in payment for license tax and in part from special appropriations made for that purpose. They will continue to mature and be paid at the rate of \$3,000 per annum.

"The outlet sewer bonds do not begin to mature until 1909; against these bonds there has been accumulating a fund derived from several sources, the chief of which was the premium realized in the sale of sewer bonds over cost of the sewers. The fund now amounts to nearly one-third of the principal of the bonds, and it is increasing by additions of interest. It is by law restricted to use for sewer purposes, and will be reserved as a sinking fund for the redemption of the outlet sewer bonds when they begin to mature.

"The lateral sewer bonds have been reduced \$38,000 since they were issued by collections from property benefited, so that there now remains unpaid but \$12,000 out of the total issue of \$50,000.

"The park bonds do not begin to mature until 1920, and require no action at this time. It will be seen from the foregoing that successive Councils have with care and foresight provided for the payment of the funded portion of the debt so far as need be, and that these plans are working towards successful results.

"The 'floating debt,' the Mayor says, 'is represented by three classes of notes, viz.: Sidewalk notes, \$5,000; Park Way opening notes, \$5,000, and notes for general borough purposes, \$30,500. The first named, that is, the sidewalk notes, are secured by liens upon the property benefited, and the amount due from that source is more than the amount of the notes; nevertheless, the Council have determined to reduce the notes next year, and to that end to restrict new sidewalk work to cash transactions, so far as possible. The amount of the second class of notes, those for the opening of Park Way, will, upon the completion of that work, be assessable upon the property benefited.

"There remains to be considered one class of indebtedness, that is, the notes issued for general borough purposes against arrearages of taxes. In this case no provision has been made for reduction, and the notes have increased from year to year in nearly the same proportion as unpaid taxes have accumulated. They will continue to so increase and become a serious menace unless proper measures are put into operation for their retirement. The measure described in the report of the Finance Committee is a natural and convenient way of dealing with the problem."

## Fire Matters call for the following comment by the Mayor:

"On account of the alarm created by recent fires and in deference to the views of many firemen and citizens, the Council recommend that the appropriation for fire purposes be doubled. This increase is much less than the practical firemen thought necessary, but it will improve the fire apparatus and conveniences materially, and about as far as seems practicable in one year, in view of the unnecessary tax rate.

"The proposals of the 'Orange Water Company to sell its pipes,' Mayor Brewer says, 'do not attract the Council on any basis which has yet been suggested. That company has raised its rates to private consumers on the ground that the old rates were unprofitable, and less than those charged in neighboring places, but its charges for public water are not materially changed.

"The Borough Council,' the Mayor says, 'has proceeded by ordinance to open a new street extending from Woodland to Bloomfield avenue, crossing the Glen at the narrowest point, and has purchased the land therefor. The new street will connect sections which now have no line of communication between Ridgewood avenue in the borough and Maple avenue in Montclair, and will open a short cut for fire and other purposes. The bridge over the Glen and railroad track will be built by the county. The borough park scheme has further progressed by the addition of six tracts of land by purchase or condemnation, and one tract of some size, which formed an essential part of the park plan, was

Mr. Ward Stevens, solo pianist at Jarvis Memorial Hall Tuesday evening, March 6th. Come and get an idea of what a 'Stalway Grand' can be made to do.—Adv.